

LEGISLATIVE BILL 144

Approved by the Governor May 16, 2007

Introduced by McDonald, 41; Pankonin, 2

FOR AN ACT relating to public health and welfare; to adopt the Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Act; and to declare an emergency.
Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Act. This act terminates on December 31, 2007.

Sec. 2. The Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Task Force is created and shall consist of eighteen members, including the chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature or his or her designated representative and a member of the Legislature appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council and the following members appointed by the Governor:

- (1) A disease prevention and health promotion administrator;
- (2) The state hepatitis coordinator;
- (3) A state surveillance officer;
- (4) A behavioral health specialist;
- (5) A medical provider;
- (6) A representative of the State Department of Education;
- (7) A representative of the Department of Veterans' Affairs;
- (8) A representative of a public health association;
- (9) A representative of a rural health association;
- (10) A registered nurse licensed to practice in Nebraska;
- (11) A pharmacist licensed to practice in Nebraska;
- (12) A primary care physician licensed to practice in Nebraska;
- (13) A primary care nurse practitioner licensed to practice in

Nebraska;

- (14) A physician assistant licensed to practice in Nebraska;
- (15) A laboratory professional; and
- (16) A resident of Nebraska affected by hepatitis C.

Sec. 3. (1) The appointed members of the Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Task Force shall be appointed within thirty days after the effective date of this act. The chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature or his or her designated representative shall serve as chairperson of the task force.

(2) The Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall provide research and administrative support for the task force. For budgetary purposes only, the task force shall be within the Legislative Council.

Sec. 4. (1) The Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Task Force shall meet at the call of the chairperson of the task force.

(2) Members shall not receive compensation for service on the task force but may be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

Sec. 5. The Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Task Force shall develop a comprehensive strategic plan to address the increasing epidemic of hepatitis C in Nebraska. The plan shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Development of a proposal to promote public awareness and education about the epidemic of hepatitis C;
- (2) Development of educational opportunities targeting health care professionals regarding the epidemic of hepatitis C;
- (3) Development of collaborative strategies among state agencies to address the needs of persons at risk for or affected by the epidemic of hepatitis C; and
- (4) Evaluation of funding sources available to address the epidemic of hepatitis C.

Sec. 6. The Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Task Force shall report on its activities and recommendations for policies and potential legislation to the Governor and to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature on or before December 31, 2007.

Sec. 7. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.